
MINUTES OF
THE EXECUTIVE OF BC CONFERENCE
The United Church of Canada
March 16-18, 2006
Mountain View Room, Burnaby, BC

PRESENT	Darryl Auten (President), Marion Carr, Cari Copeman-Haynes, Doug Goodwin (Executive Secretary), Barbara Gregg, Alie Jonker, Louise Mangan, Dal McCrindle, Ashley Ramer, Bruce Sanguin, Larry Scott, Jo Shearer, Janice Young, Donna Ziegler
REGRETS	Jim Angus, Louise Burton, Jenny Carter, Verna Howard, Andrew Speck, Michelle Slater, Phillip Spencer, Charlotte Sullivan, Michael Yoon
STAFF PRESENT	Nan Koldewijn (Recording Secretary)
GUESTS	David Allen (Executive Secretary, Toronto Conference), Derek Evans, Joan McMurtry, Doris Mowat, Brian Perkins-McIntosh (President, Toronto Conference)
AUTHORITY	In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the 2005 General Meeting of BC Conference, the President, the Rev. Darryl Auten, declared the regular meeting of the Conference Executive duly opened for the purpose of conducting the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
WELCOME	The President welcomed the Executive members and guests to the meeting and had those present introduce themselves.
WORSHIP	The President led in worship.
COMMUNITY BUILDING	The President led the Executive in a community building exercise, where small groups pretended to be Joint Needs Assessment Committees and determined what needs in the church and community the Executive was being called upon to address.
AGENDA	<i>M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)</i> <i>THAT the agenda as presented be adopted.</i>
CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES	<i>M/S/C (Goodwin/Young)</i> <i>THAT corresponding privileges be extended to David Allen, Derek Evans, Nan Koldewijn, Joan McMurtry, Doris Mowat, and Brian Perkins-McIntosh.</i>
OUTCOMES	Darryl Auten led the Executive in identifying intended Outcomes for the Executive meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to provide a word of encouragement and a “go ahead” for the Camp Future Project; 2. to gain some clarity about who should be permitted to make presentations or appeals to the Executive; 3. to get clarity about to whom Presbyteries might appeal Conference decisions 4. to get clarity about how Mission Through Finance works; 5. to get assurance that new work and emergent issues might be able to enter our decision-making system; 6. to become clearer how we can be intentional about the ownership relationship;

7. to become clearer what is Executive work and what is referred to the Executive Secretary;
8. to have completed the meeting of PDC;
9. to gain clarity about the Executive Secretary's authority to grant Licenses to Administer the Sacraments;
10. to find out what is happening in our presbyteries;
11. to find out what youth are doing throughout the Conference;
12. a worship-filled time;
13. more clarity/progress around Ends policies;
14. have some good laughs;
15. to have seen the Policy Governance model at work;
16. to acknowledge problems in the youth community.

**GOVERNANCE
TRAINING**

Doug Goodwin led the Executive in a discussion about Ownership and Beneficiaries in the Policy Governance system.

Doug defined three key terms: owners (those who established the organization for a particular purpose); beneficiaries (those for whom the services or products of the organization are intended); and stakeholders (all those who benefit in some direct or indirect way from the organization). He noted that the Executive needs to focus on the Owners and Owner concerns while the staff and committees focus on the beneficiaries. Doug directed the Executive to "Governance Policy: Conference Executive Accountability" and explained that this document is about Ownership.

ADJOURN

The President led the Executive in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006

WORSHIP

Alie Jonker opened the meeting with worship.

**CORRESPONDING
PRIVILEGES**

M/S/C (Goodwin/Young)
THAT corresponding privileges be extended to Cheryl Black, Philip Cable, Hugh Creighton, John Culter, and Barry Morris.

MINUTES

M/S/C (Goodwin/Mangan)
THAT BC Conference Executive accept the minutes of November 17-19, 2005.

**CORRESPONDENCE
REPORT**

Doug Goodwin presented a Correspondence Report (Appendix I, page 2006-11) that was based upon the Correspondence Procedure adopted by the Executive.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)
THAT the Correspondence Report be received and its recommendations adopted.

It was requested that the correspondence received from the federal and provincial governments in response to Proposals adopted at the General Meeting 2005 be copied to the groups who originally made the Proposals.

**DELEGATION FROM
VANCOUVER-
BURRARD
PRESBYTERY**

A delegation from Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery presented an appeal to the decision of the Mission Through Finance Committee not to allow the Camp Fircom Society to sell some property at Camp Fircom. The Camp Fircom property is held by BC Conference through the Property Development Council.

John Culter presented two documents to the Executive regarding Camp Fircom

and spoke about the desire of the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery to have the property sold in order to finance the immediate development of the camp facilities. Each member of the delegation spoke to the issue. The President thanked the representatives and assured them that the outcome of the discussion would be relayed to them as soon as possible after the Executive concludes.

**EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
MONITORING**

The Executive Secretary, Doug Goodwin, directed the meeting to the policy “Conference Executive – Staff Relationship: Monitoring Executive Secretary Performance” and explained that this policy guides his monitoring report and the Executive’s monitoring responsibilities. He then presented a printed report (Appendix II, page 2006-13) and printed supplementary report (Appendix III, page 2006-22). The reports highlighted activities and decisions of the Executive Secretary in response to direct commitments made at previous Executive meetings. They also reported against all Ends policies and scheduled Executive Limitation policies: Financial Condition, Financial Condition (External), Treatment of Beneficiaries, Emergency Succession, and Vendor Relations.

Ends Doug Goodwin reported on Conference work that had taken place since the last Executive meeting that reflected the Conference Executive’s Ends policies.

In the area of Healthy Congregations and Ministries he noted work with several congregations, the Camp Future Project, support for the four Lower Mainland presbyteries, progress developing a new structure for United Church Health Services and selecting a new CEO/President, conversations being held with the Vancouver School of Theology, and needed work with Native Ministries.

In the area of Effective Leadership he noted progress in providing pastoral care for Ministry Personnel, and steps toward restoring a Campus Ministry Committee.

In the area of Faithful Public Witness he noted the correspondence received from the federal and provincial governments regarding fish farming and reported on the upcoming gathering before the General Meeting of the network of people involved in this work.

Financial Condition Doug reported that BC Conference is not incurring fiscal jeopardy and has, in fact, been running slight surpluses the last three years.

Financial Condition (External) The Draft Audited statements were received in the Conference office on March 14, 2006. Staff and the Finance Council have not had enough time to study them carefully. Doug noted that a significant error had already been identified. He reported that he was not prepared to put the statements before the Executive for approval at this time. The draft statements, however, were available at the meeting for members to review.

With the arrival of an Order of the Day the monitoring of the Executive Secretary was halted, to be continued later in the meeting.

**CAMP FUTURE
PROJECT**

Doug Goodwin introduced Derek Evans. Derek introduced Joan McMurtry and Doris Mowat, members of the Camp Future Review Team, to the Executive. Derek updated the Executive on the progress of the Camp Future Project, recent decisions by the Review Team that assessed the submissions received, and the next steps in the Camp Future Project. He distributed a summary document to assist the Executive in its decision making. (Appendix IV, page 2006-24).

He noted that the Review Team affirmed the general direction of the original

camping report (“A Future for Camping Ministry”) and most of its recommendations but also adopted several significant changes:

- Withdrew a proposal for a retreat centre on the Kwomais property;
- Will seek to ensure the principles of public access and environmental preservation in the sale of Kwomais and Moorecroft camps;
- Will explore how to support church camping in areas where no camps are located;
- Have increased staff support for camping with a focus on institution building;
- Have strong centralized governance for camping with equally strong local committees for management.

Discussion followed on the process that would now occur in the Camp Future Project. Doug reported that discussions with the camp “Owners” (primarily presbyteries and congregations that own that camps), as well as other stakeholders, would follow with the goal of arriving at a mutually acceptable plan for the future of camping ministry in BC Conference. Some concerns were expressed about what would happen if the owners did not come to an agreement with BC Conference. Concern was also raised about whether BC Conference would always insist on fair market value in a camp sale or whether other historic factors might be considered. Doug reported that he expects these types of concerns to be covered in the negotiations. Further conversation on this matter continued later in the meeting.

**VANCOUVER
BURRARD
DELEGATION**

The Executive discussed the presentation by Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery on Camp Fircom. Some of the questions raised by the Executive were:

1. Is it appropriate to receive this kind of appeal in our governance?
2. Is this a crisis of management of a Camp? If so, is it appropriate for Executive to deal with it?
3. How does this fit with the Camp Future Project?
4. How does one court appropriately talk to another?

M/S/ (Scott/Copeman-Haynes)

THAT a letter be sent to Vancouver Burrard Presbytery thanking them for their presentation and affirming the work they have done on the Camp Fircom proposal and advising them the Mission Through Finance decision could be reheard at Finance Council.

M/S/C (McCrindle/Mangan)

THAT the motion be tabled.

It was decided that Cari Copeman-Haynes and Larry Scott would work on wording for a letter to the Presbytery during the supper break.

**VISIT WITH TORONTO
CONFERENCE
GUESTS**

Doug Goodwin introduced David Allen, Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference, to the Executive. David, in turn, introduced Brian Perkins-McIntosh, President of Toronto Conference. A wide-ranging discussion was held about the similarities and differences between the governance systems of the two Conferences and the issues they are facing.

Brian thanked the Executive for allowing David and himself to attend the meeting and be part of conversations. Brian suggested BC Conference might consider sending out an explanation and evaluation of Policy Governance to other Conferences.

**EXECUTIVE
MEMBERSHIP**

Doug Goodwin presented a printed report entitled “Reflections on Conference Executive Membership” (Appendix V, page 2006-32).

The report recognized that the membership of the Executive does not fit well with Policy Governance principles. It suggested several ways that membership might change in order to become more closely aligned with Conference ownership as a whole rather than with particular constituencies within the Conference.

M/S/C (McCrinkle/Ziegler)

1. **THAT** the Conference Executive engage the presbyteries and others in BC Conference in a conversation about Conference Executive membership guided by Policy Governance principles as outlined in the report (March 2006 to March 2007);
2. **THAT** at its Spring 2007 meeting the Conference Executive adopt a proposal regarding Conference Executive membership that will be distributed to and tested with the presbyteries (Spring 2007 to March 2008);
3. **THAT**, if appropriate, a proposal go to the General Meeting of BC Conference in 2008 regarding membership on the BC Conference Executive.

**POLICY
DEVELOPMENT:
ENDS POLICIES**

Cari Copeman-Haynes led the Executive in developing Ends policies for the Conference Executive.

Most of the time was spent formulating the broadest level Ends statement. The draft statement follows:

In service of our shared mission as part of the Body of Christ, we provide effective and timely support and oversight to the life of congregations, presbyteries and conference ministries, at a cost determined by the Executive annually that achieves our mission and priorities.

Executive members will continue discussion of this statement by e-mail with the view to possible adoption at a future meeting.

Ideas for subsequent, deeper levels of Ends policies were also considered (Appendix VI, page 2006-37). More work will be done by the whole Executive in Ends development by e-mail.

GENERAL MEETING

A printed report from Karen Verveda, Chair of Agenda and Planning for the General Meeting 2006, was received. Darryl Auten and Doug Goodwin spoke to the report and responded to questions.

The meeting will provide agenda time to provide visibility to three strategic areas of work: Ethnic Ministries, Emerging Spirit project, and Stewardship. A significant difference this year will be the use of Breakout Groups where a large number of themes will be addressed, using local resources as much as possible. Some Presbyteries, youth and young adults, and children have been asked to lead worship times.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Gregg)

THAT the Agenda and Planning Report be received for information.

**MEMBERS OF
GENERAL MEETING**

M/S/C (Goodwin/Jonker)

THAT BC Conference Executive include in the membership of the BC Conference 2006 General Meeting the two Youth and Young Adult members of the Conference Executive in accordance with Section 410 (f) of The Manual.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Ziegler)

THAT BC Conference Executive include in the membership of the BC Conference 2006 General Meeting chairs of the BC Conference Councils in accordance with Section 410 (f) of The Manual.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Jonker)

THAT BC Conference Executive include in the membership of the BC Conference 2005 General Meeting the President of the Women of the United Church (BC) in accordance with Section 410 (f) of The Manual.

**LISTENING TO THE
OWNERSHIP: YOUTH**

Cari Copeman-Haynes led the Executive in looking at the responses to the questionnaires received from youth.

It was noted that several themes emerged from the information provided by youth:

- The importance of peers and friendships in their lives;
- Deep interest in and engagement with global and societal issues;
- Wrestling with real, personal and corporate spiritual questions;
- General dissatisfaction with boring worship with its lack of personal engagement;
- Deep vocational interests are being nurtured in this stage of life.

OWNERSHIP CYCLE

Doug Goodwin led the Executive in discussion about future Listening to the Ownership times. He also asked:

- how do we follow up on what we have heard?
- how do we maintain a corporate memory about our learnings?
- how can we listen and respond better without engaging in “knee-jerk” reactions?

It was decided to hear about 30-45 year olds at our November 2006 meeting by asking for a presentation from the Emerging Spirit project. The Spring 2007 meeting will hear from First Nations, possibly including holding our meeting in a First Nations area of the Conference.

**VANCOUVER
BURRARD
DELEGATION**

The Executive again discussed the presentation on Camp Fircom by the Vancouver-Burrard representatives.

M/S/C (Scott/Ziegler)

THAT the motion be lifted from the table.

Larry Scott and Cari Copeman-Haynes presented a draft letter addressed to Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery. It was noted that the Camp Future Project seems to be addressing the two requests raised by the motions from the Presbytery:

- “That Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery ask BC Conference Executive to make a policy statement supporting camping ministry, particularly Camp Fircom;”
- “That Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery ask BC Conference Executive to cooperate with Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery and Camp Fircom in their attempts to sustain the outdoor ministry at Camp Fircom.”

It was decided that further work needed to be done on the letter.

M/S/C (McCrindle/Ziegler)

THAT the motion be tabled.

AGENDA CHANGE It was decided to meet at 8:30 a.m. the following morning instead of the stated agenda time of 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN The President led the Executive in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2006

WORSHIP The meeting opened with worship led by Dal McCrindle at 8:30 a.m.

POLICY REVIEW The Executive reviewed the following policies: Budgeting, Financial Condition Protection of Assets, Grants and Loans, and Emergency Succession.

Budgeting No changes were suggested to the Budgeting Policy.

Grants and Loans The Executive discussed the “Grants and Loans” policy. Alie Jonker will lead an email conversation on point 3 of this policy to determine whether a more limiting term than “regular” might be used. She will report to the Fall meeting of the Executive.

Emergency Succession The Executive discussed the use of the word “familiar” in statement #1. Janice Young will lead an email discussion to determine whether another word might be more appropriate. She will report to the Fall Executive meeting.

Investments Doug introduced the Investments policy. Barbara Gregg explained the need for an addition to this policy to allow the present practice of providing “insecure” loans to congregations and other missions.

M/S/C (Gregg/Ziegler)

THAT point 3 be added to the “Executive Secretary Limitations: Investments” policy that reads:

“In reference to #1, exception will be made to allow the investment of a predetermined percentage of the assets in loans to congregations or Conference missions that do not qualify to obtain loans and/or mortgages from traditional sources due to ownership and/or credit issues.”

CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE The Executive Secretary reported how he notes correspondence received and actions taken as laid out in the “Conference Executive Correspondence Practices and Procedures.”

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MONITORING cont’d

Monitoring of the Executive Secretary continued from earlier discussions.

Treatment of Beneficiaries It was noted that an editorial correction should be made. In the Treatment of Beneficiaries #5 “*that* might not be...” should read “*what* might not be...”

Doug asked the Executive what priority they might assign to #5. He noted that he is presently assigning a low priority to it. After discussion, the Executive decided that it wants #5 to be treated with greater priority and asked for some progress to be made in this area before the next meeting.

M/S/C (Jonker/Ziegler)

THAT the Executive Secretary report back to the next Executive meeting on

Treatment of Beneficiaries.

Doug noted that #6 of this policy is redundant since it has more recently been addressed in the Priorities policy.

M/S/C (Copeman-Haynes/Gregg)

THAT Executive Secretary Limitations: Treatment of Beneficiaries item 6 be removed.

Emergency Succession The Executive Secretary reported that an Emergency Succession policy is in place but is not being accurately followed at the present time. Due to staff secondment and resignation only one person is familiar with the Executive Secretary's work enough to take over in an emergency situation; the policy asks for two people. Doug will report back to the Executive at the Fall 2006 meeting on his compliance with this policy.

Vendor Relations The Executive Secretary reported compliance with this policy.

Consent Items:
License Dal McCrindle asked whether Ministry Personnel consent items were necessary or whether they might be handled directly by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will investigate and report back.

The Executive Secretary reported that due to the pressing need in her pastoral charge, he had earlier granted Kim Haslebacher a temporary license to administer the sacraments which was in force until this meeting of the Executive.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Copeman-Haynes)

THAT Kim Haslebacher be granted a license to administer the sacraments for the duration of her appointment to St. Andrew's United Church, Golden.

Interim Minister *M/S/C (Goodwin/Young)*
THAT Helen Hobbs be designated as an Interim Minister upon the successful completion of an Interim Training event with the United Church Training Team.

Other Doug reported briefly on Conference staff changes and thanked the Executive for their support for his recent work with the World Council of Churches Assembly.

M/S/C (Gregg/Ziegler)

THAT the Executive Secretary Monitoring Report be accepted.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Doug noted that our auditors changed ownership this past year and are now known as Ersnt and Young Chartered Accountants. This change of management, along with the appointment of a new auditor to work with us, has meant a delay in receiving draft statements from the auditors. Doug noted that he is unwilling to put them before the Executive for adoption until they can be checked for accuracy. He suggested that the Executive Audit Committee could review the statements upon their arrival.

M/S/C (Gregg/Copeman-Haynes)

THAT the Executive Audit Committee review the draft audited statements when received in order to accept them on behalf of the Executive or to do otherwise as they deem appropriate.

M/S/C (Copeman-Haynes/McCrindle)

THAT Jo Shearer be a member of the Executive Audit Review Committee with the President and Chair of Finance Council.

**CAMP FUTURE
DISCUSSION
(CONTINUED)**

The Executive continued its discussion of the Camp Future Project report.

M/S/C (Gregg/McCrindle)

THAT BC Conference Executive receive the updated Camp Future Project Report and affirms the direction of the report.

The Executive Secretary responded to a question and explained that the meaning of the phrase “to speak with one voice” does not mean that Executive members cannot disagree with an Executive decision. It means that only the Executive decision is what governs the action of the Executive Secretary and not the other diverse voices within the Executive that might hold different opinions.

**VANCOUVER
BURRARD
DELEGATION**

M/S/C (Copeman-Haynes/Jonker)

THAT the tabled motion be lifted from the table.

The Executive discussed the draft letter to Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery.

M/S/C (Scott/Copeman-Haynes)

THAT a letter be sent to Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery thanking them for their presentation and affirming the work they have done on the Camp Fircom proposal and advising them the Mission Through Finance decision could be reheard at Finance Council.

Dianne Astel suggested that the letter include an affirmation of the direction of the Camp Future Project Report, and include a summary of the Camp Future Project. The Executive Secretary will edit the letter to include this suggestion.

**PDC COUNCIL
DIRECTORS**

Doug Goodwin reminded the Executive members that they are also members of the Property Development Council. The Executive was also reminded that it has the responsibility to elect additional persons as members of the Council.

M/S/C (Goodwin/Shearer)

THAT the following persons be named as members of the Property Development Council: Donna Dawson, Diane Nichols, and Jim Roberts.

SPRING MEETING

The meeting of the Spring 2007 Executive will not be set at this time. The Executive Secretary will check the dates and the possible location of a meeting, with the view to meeting at a time and location that would enable a good listening process with First Nations churches. Doug Goodwin noted that if only one meeting was held in the Spring instead of two it might be financially feasible to meet outside the Lower Mainland. He also suggested that a Celebration of Ministry service could be conducted by a commission of the Conference Executive.

M/S/C (Gregg/Astle)

THAT BC Conference Executive have one Spring meeting in 2007, date and location to be determined.

**NEW MEMBER
TRAINING AND
ORIENTATION**

Alie Jonker spoke about the difficulty in understanding the Policy Governance approach and the feeling of uncertainty she experienced when she attended her first meeting. The Executive made suggestions to help newcomers:

- produce a list of available Policy Governance resources;
- distribute a summary of Policy Governance regularly;
- name an Executive member to be a buddy for new members;
- improve signage and lighting at the Conference office;

- distribute educational governance notes;
- retiring presbytery members have the responsibility to bring new members up to date on Conference Executive governance and issues before the Executive.

OUTCOMES

The Executive reviewed its “Outcomes” established at the beginning of the meeting as a way to evaluate the success of the meeting.

The Executive agreed that most outcomes were addressed and accomplished.

EVALUATIONS

The Executive held a quick, verbal evaluation of the meeting. In general the meeting was experienced as an open, lively place for discussion where many voices were heard. The youth member, Ashley Ramer, thanked the Executive for its openness and how many members addressed questions directly to her. During the evaluation the President voiced his appreciation for participation of all of the Executive, to Brenda Wolff and Nan Koldewijn for the meals and hospitality, and to Dal McCrindle for his music accompaniment in worship.

ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

PDC MEETING

The President welcomed members of the Property Development Council. The Council then met.

WORSHIP

The President closed the Executive and Property Development Council meetings by leading eucharistic worship.

NEXT MEETINGS

November 2-4, 2006
Spring 2007 (time and place to be announced)

GENERAL MEETINGS

May 25-28, 2006 Esquimalt, BC
May 22-25, 2008



BC Conference Executive

Rev. Darryl Auten, President

Rev. G. Douglas Goodwin, Executive Secretary